

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:TJWAJDA:RLW
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:WBODDE, JR.
PM/DCA:MARIETTI (INFO)
ACDA:TWOMBLEY (INFO)
-----046401 311627Z /44
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 310872

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS

1. AMBASSADOR RENOUF, ACCOMPANIED BY DEFATT FALKLAND AND
EMBOFF COTTRILL, CALLED ON PM DIRECTOR GELB DECEMBER 21 FOR
BRIEFING ON BERN ROUND OF TALKS ON INDIAN OCEANS ARMS
LIMITATIONS. FOLLOWING IS CLEARED MEMCON OF MEETING:
QUOTE:

2. AMBASSADOR RENOUF LED OFF BY ASKING FOR A BRIEFING ON
THE BERN ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS
LIMITATION. MR. GELB NOTED THE TALKS HAD GONE WELL. THE
USSR HAD TABLED A DRAFT IN THE SAME FORMAT AS THE PREVIOUS
US EFFORT, BUT WITH CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE IN SUBSTANCE.
THE SOVIETS HAD STATED THEIR POSITION IN MAXIMAL TERMS BUT
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SOFTENED DURING THE TALKS. IT WAS AGREED THAT FOR THE NEXT
ROUND EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO WORK OUT A JOINT DRAFT.
THE NEXT SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY WITH A VENUE
YET TO BE DECIDED.

3. DIFFERENCES EXIST WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED
SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING FORCE LEVELS. THE

US WOULD PREFER AN AGREED GENERAL DESCRIPTION WHILE THE USSR HAS ASKED FOR DETAILED NUMERICAL DATA. THERE WAS SOME

SOVIET MOVEMENT TOWARD THE US POSITION. THE USSR HAS DROPPED ITS DEMAND FOR EXCLUSION OF CARRIERS, AN ESSENTIAL POINT FOR THE US. WITH REGARD TO SUBMARINES, IT IS UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAVE ACCEPTED OUR POSITION. THIS WOULD INVOLVE PUTTING IN WRITING WHAT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THEM ORALLY CONCERNING DEPLOYMENTS. MR. ARIETTI NOTED THAT THE US WOULD NOT AGREE TO A COMPLETE BAN ON SUBMARINES BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE THE SOVIETS AN ASSURANCE THAT WE WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE PATTERN OF SUBMARINE DEPLOYMENTS.

4. MR. GELB SAID THE QUESTION OF FACILITIES WAS COMPLEX. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR USE BY THE US OR THE USSR. THERE IS DISAGREEMENT ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION AT DIEGO GARCIA. THERE WAS AGREEMENT REGARDING LIMITING THE USE OF FACILITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, BUT DISAGREEMENT ON THE DEFINITION OF UTILIZATION.

5. THE SOVIET DRAFT CONTAINS LANGUAGE ON ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE AREA WHICH CAUSES US DIFFICULTIES. THE USSR ARGUED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO ACTIVITIES IN ADJACENT AREAS THAT WOULD AFFECT THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE US HAS
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TAKEN A FIRM STAND OPPOSING THIS. MR. ARIETTI SAID IT APPEARED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO FIND LANGUAGE THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO STILL TRYING TO MAKE THE WITHDRAWAL CLAUSE LESS THAN INSTANTANEOUS.

6. MR. GELB SAID THE US HAD NOT MOVED AN INCH ON DEFINITION OF THE AREA AND HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM AMB. RENOUF AND GENERAL FALKLAND, MR. GELB SAID THAT THE USSR'S FLOATING DRYDOCK HAD BEEN MOVED TO ADEN FROM BERBERA. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SOVIET HEADWAY IN SECURING FACILITIES IN OTHER INDIAN OCEAN AREAS. IN REPLY TO MR. COTTRILL, MR. TWOMBLY SAID THE FACILITIES QUESTION WAS DIFFICULT AND INVOLVED THE DEFINITIONS OF ROUTINE VISITS AND UTILIZATION. IN OUR VIEW, SOVIET POSITIONING OF THE FLOATING DRYDOCK AND AUXILIARY SHIPS IN A PORT AMOUNTED TO UTILIZATION OF A FACILITY.

8. MR. GELB CLOSED THE DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO PROMOTE OUR OWN

SECURITY INTERESTS. WHILE SECURITY MUST BE PROMOTED
FIRST THROUGH ONE'S OWN FORCES, ADDITIONAL SECURITY CAN
BE OBTAINED THROUGH ARMS CONTROL. THIS IS A SERIOUS
EFFORT AND ONE WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF

FURTHERING THE SECURITY OF OURSELVES AND OUR ALLIES.

9. ON THE SUBJECT OF A USSR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FOR A
RESEARCH SHIP AND A SUBMARINE TO VISIT AN AUSTRALIAN PORT,
AMB. RENOUF WAS GIVEN A COPY OF THE ATTACHED BRIEFING
PAPER. END TEXT.

10. FYI. BRIEFING PAPER REFERRED TO IN FINAL SENTENCE
OF MEMCON WAS FORWARDED TO POST IN STATE 305540. CHRISTOPHER
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